

**Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday May 21st, 2020 7:30pm**

**In attendance:** Judy Goldberg, Rabbi Breindel, Jocelyn Bailin, Jim Billings, Mike Joachim, Marcos Szydlo, John Harper, Aaron Friedman, Debbie Glass, Steve Probst, Marla Lewitus, Laurie Margolies, Neil Frieband, Judy Sletzinger, Lizza Sandoe, Gabriel DeBrito, Scott Newman, Shoni Aronovich, Cynthia Myersburg, Beth Schine

**Welcome:** Judy Goldberg

Welcome back, one week later!

**Bat Mitzvah:** Rabbi Breindel

We have a joyous and momentous event coming up in our congregational life: in approximately one month we will be having our only Bat (or Bar) Mitzvah for an entire year.

The Bat mitzvah, Maya, has expressed a strong and deep wish to read Torah from the Torah scroll on her Bat Mitzvah – to her it is most meaningful to stand with Torah and chant in her spiritual home.

We – the clergy, the staff, and the family have been working continuously together over the past number of weeks to determine how best to bring Maya’s vision and passion to fruition. We deeply want to honor her desire and we equally deeply want to honor our pledge to keep our Beth El family healthy and safe.

Rabbi Breindel undertook detailed research, reaching out to other clergy, both local and national, to find out what they have been doing. He also spoke with health experts and read countless bulletins, health advisories, and statements from local and national health departments and physician experts. He then brought all this information to Lorel and the two of them have wrestled with it.

The decision they have come up with is this:

We will invite the Shalev family – the four members of the immediate family only – into the sanctuary for the service. This will not be an open service.

The Shalev family and the Rabbi and Lorel will maintain a minimum of ten feet distance apart, and up to 30 feet apart when singing.

There will be no handing of the scroll down through the generations, the family will be the only ones to touch and read from the Torah.

This is a standalone event and is in no way precedent-setting. Each and every question that comes up about using the building will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you to Scott and Shoni for meticulously going over the details of how this can be accomplished in a safe and meaningful manner. Thank you to Lorel and Judy and Beth for the countless hours of thinking and planning all the details.

Questions/Comments:

Q: Will the windows and doors be open?

A: We can certainly look into that and, weather permitting, this should be fine.

C: All door handles and anything in bathrooms, water fountain, etc that might be touched should be thoroughly disinfected.

A: Agreed, we are putting all this into the plan.

We are working together to make this a meaningful, holy, and safe simcha.

## **Capital Budget:** Jim Billings (with assistance from Mike and Beth and David Waldman)

Jim presented the capital budget (see attached).

### Questions/Comments:

Q: composting and garbage service.

A: Currently our regular garbage services is on hold, and they are coming on an as-needed basis. We generally spend approximately \$200/month for garbage and recycling. If we are composting, our regular garbage output should shrink, saving us some money. The compost bins will cost us \$100 and the service should cost us \$40/month.

Q: Alarm system?

A: we should have one. We will be applying for a grant from CJP to cover or heavily subsidize the cost. We need to spend the funds first and will be reimbursed for the cost once we receive the grant.

C: Boaz Shalev works for Bose. He may have some insight into what needs to be done to soundproof the Kolel.

A: Thanks for this information. We can reach out to him.

## **Event Manager discussion:** Jim, Judy, Beth

Need decision on what to do about the weekend/evening event manager position, currently held by Kim P. To this date we have been paying her her average monthly salary. Will we continue to do this past July 8<sup>th</sup> (when our PPP obligations are no longer in place)?

Jim Billings called Kim and spoke with her about this. She is very grateful that we have continued to pay her despite her not working for Beth El (she does have a full-time job elsewhere).. Kim indicated that if we were to discontinue paying her while the Beth El building continues to be shut she would notice the loss but that she would not be unduly affected by it.

From an HR perspective: this is an unpaid leave of absence

From a budget standpoint: we should leave the line item for Kim's compensation in the budget. We don't know when we will be back in the building and will need her services, but we want the funds to be available to pay her once we are back in the building.

***Decision:** As of July 1, 2020, this position will be paid for hours worked only.*

## **Covid-19 task force for Beth El:** Judy Goldberg

Judy and Jim are in the process of putting together a C-19 task force. This group of people will stay on top of all health bulletins, advisories, rules and recommendations and share this information with the leadership and the community. They will advise the Board on the latest recommendations and actions we could or should be taking down the road. The members of the committee *so far* are:

Craig Ross – who is an epidemiologist

David Krieger – physician

Cynthia Meyersburg – scientist

Laurie Margolies – coordinator

Judy Goldberg (stepping down), Jim Billings (stepping in)

Beth Schine (Temple Administrator)

The group is still in the process of being formed and will start to meet sometime in the next week or two.

## **Annual Meeting:** Judy Goldberg

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am. PLEASE BE SURE TO BE THERE! If you are leaving the Board we wish to honor you, if you are joining the board or continuing on the Board we want you to take the oath of office.

**Congratulations to Gabriel:** all

He's going to Tufts!

**VOTES TAKEN:**

**Congregation Beth El 2020-2021 Capital Budget:** Jim Billings

*Motion:* To approve the proposed capital budget for FY '20-'21.

*Motion Approved:* unanimously

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bailin

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley